

November 15, 2003

Meghan Kissell  
American Medical Women's Association  
801 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 400  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Ms. Kissell:

It is an honor and a privilege for me to recognize the work of two exemplary women physicians, Dr. Janice F. Gable and Dr. Eleanor "Sue" Cantrell, in recognition of their service to the citizens of my Congressional district, the 9th Congressional District of Virginia. Both women are both "local legends" and leaders who are beloved by all whose lives they have touched. Both are community and regional role models who have greatly improved the health and health status indicators of my district. For these qualities, and so much more, I submit their names in nomination for statewide and national recognition in the "local legends" celebration of the American Medical Women's Association.

Please advise me of any additional material you may require to further facilitate this well deserved recognition of Drs. Gable and Cantrell.

Thanking you for your time and attention to these comments, I remain,

Sincerely,

Rick Boucher  
Member of Congress

**Janice F. Gable, MD**

For her tireless work in serving the citizens of the mountainous communities of Grayson, Smyth and Washington counties in the 9th Congressional District of Virginia, I nominate Dr. Janice Gable as a “local legend” for recognition by the American Medical Women’s Association. A family practitioner and a 1970 graduate of the Indiana University School of Medicine, Dr. Gable established her medical practice more than 30 years ago in the town of Konnarock, Virginia, a community that sits in the shadow of Virginia’s highest peaks. Surrounded by mountains on all sides, ranging from 3300 to 5700 feet, this community is both geographically isolated and economically distressed. More than 45% of its citizens are below 200% of the poverty level and the region is both medically underserved and a health professional shortage area.

Loved dearly by her patients, and in the face of personal economic hardship and professional isolation, Dr. Gable continues to provide meticulous care to approximately 2000 registered patients in her clinic through thousands of medical encounters, both emergently and electively. When Dr. Gable recently discussed the possibility of scaling back her medical practice, the entire community rallied to support her, with the ultimate result that her practice has received recognition as a federally qualified community health center through Stone Mountain Health Services, Inc. With that designation, and the additional services afforded to her patients through such an affiliation, Dr. Gable continues to serve the Konnarock community. In addition to her devotion to her patients, Dr. Gable is a talented horticulturalist, whose gardens are on display at a nearby bed and breakfast in Troutdale, Virginia. It is an honor and a privilege to nominate Dr. Gable for this “local leaders” award of the American Medical Women’s Association.

Contact Information:

Janice F. Gable MD

Konnarock Family Health Center

20471 Azen Road Damascus, VA 24236

**Eleanor S. (“Sue”) Cantrell, MD**

As an unparalleled advocate for enhancing the public health of the Lenowisco Health Planning District of the Virginia Department of Health, I nominate Dr. Eleanor “Sue” Cantrell for the AMWA “local legend” award. The Lenowisco district encompasses Lee, Wise and Scott Counties of Virginia, a mountainous and distressed region of Appalachia. The Lenowisco Health District's mission is to “assess the health needs of the district, and to assist individuals, families and communities to achieve optimal health by emphasizing the promotions of good health, prevention of disease and protection from environmental hazards”. Under Dr. Cantrell’s direction, my constituents receive exemplary care through a network of health department clinics and public health initiatives. In addition to enhancing access to basic health care, Dr. Cantrell has incorporated advanced technologies into the health programs in the Lenowisco district (such as the use of telemedicine technologies to support diagnostic and screening

programs for women with cervical cancer). Under her leadership, there have been marked regional improvements in critical healthcare indices.

For the past four years, Dr. Cantrell has served as the medical director of a weekend summer free clinic held in Wise County, Virginia, in conjunction with the Remote Area Medical organization. This event is designed to provide additional medical and dental services to the uninsured and underserved. In 2003, under Dr. Cantrell's direction, more than 4700 patient services were provided to patients from her health planning district, and those of adjacent health districts in Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. She is a model for compassionate commitment to her patients, to the region and the Commonwealth of Virginia, and immensely deserving of recognition as a "local legend" by the American Medical Women's Association.

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